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NOTE ON SECCHI'S COMPANION TO Σ 2481.

In 1856 SECCHI found that the smaller star of the pair Σ 2481, was itself a close double. It was a very difficult object with his telescope, and he was able to measure it on only two nights. A few measures were made by other observers in the twenty-five years that followed, and these indicated, rather uncertainly, a slow retrograde motion. From 1881 on, the star seems to have been entirely neglected until 1897, when it was placed on my regular observing-list. I have followed it carefully for the past eight years, and can now say certainly that the fact of orbital motion is established and that the period is probably not much greater than fifty years.

Unfortunately the early measures are not only few in number but also very discordant. It is therefore impossible to compute even an approximate orbit at this time, though the observed arc is fully 340° . It will probably be necessary to wait at least twenty years for data to define the apastron end of the apparent ellipse.

The present note is written to call the attention of double-star observers to this pair, which deserves annual measurement. So far as I can discover, the following list includes all the existing observations:—

MEASURES OF Σ 2481 BC = SECCHI.

1856.832	93°.4	0".4	1 ⁿ	SECCHI.
59.610	98 .2	0 .4	1	SECCHI.
66.74	83 .4	0 .45 (est)	1	O. STRUVE.
76.13	84 .8	0 .49	4	SCHIAPARELLI.
77.31	69 .8	0 .37	2	DEMBOWSKI.
80.46	91 .1	0 .37	5	SCHIAPARELLI.
81.57	61 .9	0 .33	3	HOUGH.
97.85	243 .3	0 .17	2	AITKEN.
98.60	211 .1	0 .17	2	AITKEN.
1899.69	187 .9	0 .16	3	AITKEN.
1900.61	148 .2	0 .15	1	AITKEN.
01.40	132 .8	0 .14	2	AITKEN.
01.89	137 .1	0 .15	1	AITKEN.
03.71	127 .2	0 .23	3	AITKEN.
04.44	120 .0	0 .22	2	AITKEN.
05.29	114 .3	0 .24	1	AITKEN.

May 22, 1905.

R. G. AITKEN.